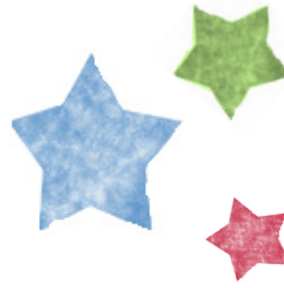




# Manchester Public Schools



What's  
Today's  
News?

5th grade scholars at Verplanck Elementary School performed spring concert...



The 5th grade scholars at Verplanck Elementary School performed their spring concert this May. It was a wonderful event to see. There was a great deal of planning and rehearsing to make the night a success. The scholars met with Ms. Baker every Monday for 30 minutes during school. They had previously had a December concert so they began with new songs this January. Chorus is much different than the general music class, where there are several activities that the scholars move quickly through. The scholars are dancing, singing and playing instruments all in one lesson. Our music teacher Ms. Baker explained, "In chorus, students have to adjust to a much different type of pacing. They are singing for a full 30 minutes and often need to build up the endurance to work on just that one skill, and sometimes even just one piece, for that long." Chorus is about working together in one single unit. "They need to blend with their section, as well as balance with the opposing section. There needs to be a lot of trust and cooperation built between myself and the group, and within the group itself," stated Ms. Baker. There is a great deal of work and time that goes on behind the scenes in order to deliver such a wonderful concert. Another factor is the fine details of singing that the scholars need to display. Ms. Baker shared some examples, "When to breath, how to control your breath, when and how to change dynamics (volume) and tempo (speed). It's a lot more rigorous than just singing 3 pretty songs!" After the concert a few of the students shared their experience with chorus. Dhruv Tyagi in Mrs. Gordon's class shared, "I enjoy singing and sing at home. In chorus I have to sing in front of people and it is awesome. I have heard everyone's singing voice and without a doubt I can say that everyone sings well." Dhruv was a soloist in the concert. Another scholar Ty'Vohn Holloway stated that "Chorus is a time that I feel calm and happy. I enjoy performing and also performed in the town-wide concert in April this year." It is clear that chorus takes hard work and dedication from the scholars and their teacher. The result shows that this concert was exciting to watch and rewarding to all who were involved. Thank you for letting all of us be a part of it!



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